

**Although the abuse of animals is a serious concern, the butchering and smuggling of Zambezi flap-shelled turtles from Lake Malawi to China is affecting the health of citizens in Asia and Southeastern Africa, because the turtle shells are used for traditional**

**What's going on?**

- In the past few years China has been involved in animal trafficking
- The illegal butchering and smuggling of the Zambezi flap shelled turtles has recently been discovered
- The Lilongwe Society for Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA), Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and Royal Society for the Protection and Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) aim to warn people of the new laws and put a final end to this cruelty.
- The local fisherman are being paid MK1000(\$2.50) per which lead to a gold rush in the community.  
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**Chinese medicine and the turtles consume snails that spread bilharzia.**

**How does this affect the region around Lake Malawi?**

- Disease will spread from parasites
- an already rare species could be extinct
- The spread of disease and loss of turtles will reduce the tourists from wanting to visit and will affect economic growth
- There would be no tourists + incurable disease spread
- People living around the area would be causing their own deaths

This is an herbal medicine to help the liver called, "bie jail" it's common name is Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle

Turtle platter

Viagra

**What is hoped for the future?**

- Southeastern African will become aware of the situation
- Butchering of turtles will stop
- no outbreak of parasitic disease
- China finds new ingredients for medicine
- They will obey the rules that protect animals
- The turtle farming in Asia will become more useful and help abolish trafficking and illegal butchering of turtles
  - (hope turtles won't be eaten to extinction)

Locations where the turtle can be found.

**What is the Zambezi flap-shelled turtle?**

- A.K.A Cycloderma Frenatum
- They are soft shelled turtles found in Southeastern africa
- Are carnivores and eat snails that carry bilharzia
  - Bilharzia - a disease caused by the parasitic worm called Schistomes
  - Schistomes can only be caught by snails
  - There is no cure for bilharzia, but there are treatments
- Are fairly large soft shelled turtles, up to 56cm in length
- fast swimmers and are completely aquatic

**How does this affect China?**

- China mainly uses the turtles for their shells in medicine
- Turtles are being eaten, and often used for medicinal purposes
- Guilinggao, A.K.A Tortoise Jelly or Turtle Jelly is traditionally used for making skin healthier
  - Legend says that it nearly cured the Tongzhi Emperor's small pox
  - It contains the bottom shell of the turtle
- Eating turtle is an ancient, time-honored tradition
- In some medicines it is believed to purify the blood, to cure diseases and to bestow longevity or virility
- Turtle meat is a major source of protein in the region
- If they stopped using smuggled turtles, there could be new advances of medicine in China

Turtle Jelly

Turtle stew

